

## **Community Participation**

To achieve the mission of the Central University of Punjab of participation in the development of the community, it has adopted Jhumba, Ghudda, Baho-Yatri, Mann, Badal villages and also it works in nearby villages such as Naruana, Nandgarh, Katar Singh Wala, and Jassi Pau Wali. As Malwa belt of Punjab forms the core of cancer hot spot in the state. Apart from it, various other diseases like kidney failure, infertility, hypertension and diabetes etc. are also common in the region. Various factors like poverty, low literacy rate, malnutrition, inadequate access to potable water, lack of personal hygiene and sanitation make them more vulnerable to diseases. Further due to lack of health services and awareness, these diseases remain untreated. The Central University of Punjab is committed to spreading awareness among the masses and promoting environmental and health awareness in rural areas specifically in the adopted and nearby villages. The university under the aegis of Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan, Community Development Cell (CDC), and NSS organize awareness camps in these villages for Gender equality like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Drug De-Addiction, Swacch Bharat Abhiyaan and Road Safety. Door to door surveys are also conducted to unearth the major issues and challenges faced by the local people to maintain a good quality of life and assess their knowledge about those issues. Questionnaire-based survey on various issues such as Water harvesting, single-use plastic, Nutrition and malnutrition (Poshan Abhiyaan) are conducted to sensitize the villagers to save water and the environment from the harmful impacts of plastic use and the biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste and its segregation based on the utilities.

To spread the importance of cleanliness of surroundings, and environmental conservation, the university organizes plantation drives, cleanliness drives/rallies (Plogging: plastics collection and jogging). Many innovative activities such as Chhabeel (Sweet water distribution) to spread awareness and information about stubble burning and air pollution are also conducted on main roads the city. The CDC of the university conducts free health camps where routine biochemical screening for heart function, kidney function, liver function and lipid profile is regularly conducted along with the other vitals (blood pressure, blood sugar and BMI) which can be used as early indicators of various chronic diseases. Besides,

CDC has procured Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) kits from the USA which detects elevated globin (the most predictive biomarker of colon and rectal cancer, diverticulitis, colitis, inflammatory bowel diseases etc), are being used in these villages. The department of Environment Science and Technology assists and provides services to analyze soil quality and test groundwater and surface water for irrigation and human consumption i.e. parameters like TDS, pH, conductivity, TSS, hardness, alkalinity, sodium potassium fluoride, heavy metals e.g. copper, zinc, lead and arsenic, cadmium, chromium and uranium etc. are tested free of cost. Awareness camps and interactive sessions are conducted to introduce innovative technologies in agriculture and to motivate the villagers towards sustainable agricultural practices. Faculty from various departments like Education, Botany, Human Genetics and Molecular Medicine, Biochemistry, Microbiology Sociology, Economics, Computer Science and Technology and Zoology are involved in service-learning programs where lectures, seminars, workshops in schools and colleges are conducted free of cost to create awareness about personal hygiene, social issues, health issues (Polycystic ovary syndrome), along with free coaching for digital learning and career prospects.

The university is committed to nurture and encourage the scientific temperament among young minds. The Rashtriya Avishkaar Abhiyaan scheme/Tinkering lab of the university encourages and ignites young minds to develop their interest in maths and science. Under this scheme, students from various local schools and colleges from Bathinda visit the university to see the world-class facilities and laboratories in their city. Hands-on workshops and experiments demonstrations are also conducted to train the school teachers to promote science and technology. To empower people across the world to fight against Novel Corona Virus with authentic information, the Central University of Punjab has launched India's own unique COVID-19 Information Portal on which most of the authentic information and sources are made available for references, research, and common understanding of the phenomenon. As a part of social responsibility, the faculty gives their voluntary services for the establishment of COVID-19 Testing Laboratory, awareness activities for frontline health workers and for activities to stay healthy.